Proper care to girl child

2085.SHRIMATI SURPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged every State to step forward to empower the girl child;

(b) if so, whether the National Family Health Survey-III has found that in the five years preceding the survey, 44 per cent of urban and 80 per cent of the rural respondents had opted for prenatal ultrasound tests;

(c) if so, whether the Prime Minister has urged upon the States to take urgent steps to see that children born are given proper treatment;

(d) the suggestions made by the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(e) to what extent the Union Government and the States have agreed to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) On the occasion of the national level meet on 'Save the Girl Child' held at New Delhi on 28.4.2008, the hon'ble Prime Minister of India urged, *inter alia,* for a concerned and multi pronged societal action to address the several contributing factors in the precament of the Indian girl child. There was need to strengthen legislative enforcement, basic health care and nutrition and reorient national literacy and school education programmes to give greater focus, to women and the girl child. Leaders of civil society, particularly the religious leaders needed to be mobilized for a nationwide campaign for ending all types of discrimination against our women built into our societal structure. The hon'ble Prime Minister exhorted every citizen to step forward and help in empowering the girl child in every possible way.

The National Population Policy (NPP) 2000, the National Health Policy, 2002 and the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) have laid down the goals for maternal and child health initiatives which are also a part of the Millennium Development Goals, to which India is a signatory. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) goal is to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 30 by 2012.

The ongoing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme-II under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) comprehensively integrates interventions to improve child health and was initiated to address each of the major factors contributing to high IMR and under-five mortality.

(b) The National Family Health Survey-III found that the percentage of all pregnancies in the five years preceding the survey for which an ultrasound test was done in terms of residence is 44.0% in urban areas and 16.3% in rural areas.

Unregulated private nursing homes

2086.SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of private healthcare centres in the country do not have licence to undertake any surgery and are even unregulated and unaccountable;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to identify such private health centres and to bring them under law; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to monitor and supervise the functioning of private health care centres.

However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has already introduced a Bill namely "Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2007" in Parliament. The Bill is aimed to provide for the registration and regulation of clinical establishments in the country with a view to prescribe minimum standards of facilities and services.

Poor quality X-ray images

2087.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the study conducted by International Atomic Energy Agency in Asia, Africa and Europe, saying that 53 per cent X-ray in hospitals appears to be of poor image quality thereby compromising accuracy of the diagnosis and unnecessary radiation exposure of patients; and

(b) if so, whether an analogous study will be made in our selected hospitals to verify the claim behind IAEA findings so that the twin advantage of minimum radiation exposure and reducing nearly 50 per cent of our expenditure incurred on X-raying process presently may be obtained?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) As per information available, the study conducted in question appears to be a sample study/survey and may not be correct to generalize as interpretation of x-rays which depends on various factors like type of machine, quality of films, duration of exposure, technical faults etc.

Distribution of medicine by untrained persons

†2088. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that medicines are being sold by untrained person instead of trained person (pharmacist) at several chemist shops which has proved to be fatal for patients in several cases where wrong medicines were given; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard, and the details thereof, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.